1-17. **(canceled)**

18. **(original)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces TNF-α induced lipolysis comprising

(i) isolating a compound which is an ERK1/2 and/or JNK inhibitor;

(ii) contacting an adipocyte with the compound of step (i) and TNF-α and determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound of step (i) relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound of step (i) indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis,

to thereby identify a compound which reduces lipolysis.

19-28. **(canceled)**

29. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces TNF-α induced lipolysis comprising

(i) isolating a compound which is an ERK 1/2 inhibitor;

(ii) contacting an adipocyte with the compound of step (i) and TNF-α and determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound of step (i) relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound of step (i) indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis,

to thereby identify a compound which reduces lipolysis.

30. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces TNF-α induced lipolysis comprising

(i) isolating a compound which is a JNK inhibitor;

(ii) contacting an adipocyte with the compound of step (i) and TNF-α and determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound of step (i) relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound of step (i) indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis,

to thereby identify a compound which reduces lipolysis.

31. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces TNF-α induced lipolysis comprising

(i) isolating a compound which is a MEK inhibitor;

(ii) contacting an adipocyte with the compound of step (i) and TNF-α and determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound of step (i) relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound of step (i) indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis,

to thereby identify a compound which reduces lipolysis.

32. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces TNF-α induced lipolysis comprising

(i) isolating a compound which is a p38 activator;

(ii) contacting an adipocyte with the compound of step (i) and TNF-α and determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound of step (i) relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound of step (i) indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis,

to thereby identify a compound which reduces lipolysis.

33. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces lipolysis comprising

(i) contacting an adipocyte with a compound which is an ERK 1/2 inhibitor and an agent which induces lipolysis; and

(ii) determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis.

34. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces lipolysis comprising

(i) contacting an adipocyte with a compound which is a JNK inhibitor and an agent which induces lipolysis; and

(ii) determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis.

35. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces lipolysis comprising

(i) contacting an adipocyte with a compound which is a MEK inhibitor and an agent which induces lipolysis; and

(ii) determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis.

36. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces lipolysis comprising

(i) contacting an adipocyte with a compound which is a p38 activator and an agent which induces lipolysis; and

(ii) determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis.

37. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces lipolysis comprising

(i) contacting a fibroblast cell with a compound which is an ERK 1/2 inhibitor and an agent which induces lipolysis; and

(ii) determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis.

38. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces lipolysis comprising

(i) contacting a fibroblast cell with a compound which is a JNK inhibitor and an agent which induces lipolysis; and

(ii) determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis.

39. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces lipolysis comprising

(i) contacting a fibroblast cell with a compound which is a MEK inhibitor and an agent which induces lipolysis; and

(ii) determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis.

40. **(new)** A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces lipolysis comprising

(i) contacting a fibroblast cell with a compound which is a p38 activator and an agent which induces lipolysis; and

(ii) determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the compound relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound reduces lipolysis.

41. **(new)** The method of claim 33, wherein the agent which induces lipolysis is TNF-α.

42. **(new)** The method of claim 34, wherein the agent which induces lipolysis is TNF-α.

43. **(new)** The method of claim 35, wherein the agent which induces lipolysis is TNF-α.

44. **(new)** The method of claim 36, wherein the agent which induces lipolysis is TNF-α.

45. **(new)** The method of claim 37, wherein the agent which induces lipolysis is TNF-α.

46. **(new)** The method of claim 38, wherein the agent which induces lipolysis is TNF-α.

47. **(new)** The method of claim 39, wherein the agent which induces lipolysis is TNF-α.

48. **(new)** The method of claim 40, wherein the agent which induces lipolysis is TNF-α.

49. **(new)** The method of claim 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, or 48, wherein said level of lipolysis is measured by levels of free fatty acid or glycerol in the cell medium.

50. **(new)** The method of claim 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, or 48, wherein said compound is useful for treating a disease relating to an increase in free fatty acids and/or glycerol.

51. **(new)** The method of claim 50 wherein said disease is hyperlipidemia, hyperglycemia, hyperinsulinemia, obesity, impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistant non-impaired glucose tolerance, non-diagnostic glucose tolerance, insulin resistance, diabetic complications, fatty liver, polycystic ovary syndrome, gestational diabetes mellitus, hypertension, or non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus.

52. **(new)** The method of claim 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, or 48, wherein said compound is useful for treating a thrombotic event.

53. **(new)** The method of claim 52 wherein said thrombotic event is a stroke or myocardial infarction.

54. **(new)** The method of claim 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, or 48, wherein said compound is useful for treating a cardiovascular disease.

55. **(new)** The method of claim 54 wherein said cardiovascular disease is atherosclerosis.

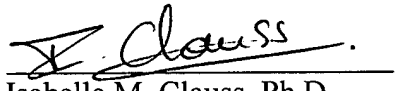
56. **(new)** The method of claim 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, or 48, wherein said compound is useful for normalizing endothelial function.

The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-832-1000.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this submission. However, if any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the necessary amount to our Deposit Account No. 06-1448, ref. TUV-005.01.

Respectfully submitted,
FOLEY HOAG LLP

Dated: August 12, 2003



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